(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) by when the said projects are likely to be set up and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF Ltd.) is exploring the possibility of setting up of joint venture fertilizer projects in resource rich countries where natural gas or raw materials phosphoric fertilizers are available in adequate quantity at reasonable price. The above efforts of the company are at exploratory stage only and no proposal has been concretized, so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up more NIPERs

628. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be please to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consider of Government to set up more NIPERs or its Centres in some of the States during Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) is located at S.A.S.Nagar, Mohali, Punjab. NIPER has been set up under an act of Parliament. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee set up by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, proposal to set up some more such Institutes in the Country has been initiated. No final decision has been taken in this regard by the Government.

Import of wheat at higher price

629. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have decided to import wheat from the international market at a higher cost;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount of wheat that is to be imported;

(c) whether there is a stark difference between the wheat price in local markets and the price of imported wheat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) and (b) During the year 2007-08 State Trading Corporation (STC) has been asked to place orders for import of 5.11 lakh MTs of wheat at a weighted average price of US $ 325.59 PMT C&F (FO) on Government account. The tender was finalized on the basis of competitive bids received against global tender. The bid prices quoted depend upon demand and supply position of the commodity, origin of wheat, arrival period, discharge ports, freight and other commercial considerations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Revival of sugar mills

630. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sugar mills functioning at present in the different parts of the country indicating the profit/loss of each mills;

(b) the number of sugar mills closed down in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for closure of the said mills;

(d) whether any action plan has been formulated by Government for revival of the closed mills in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Statement-I showing State-wise number of sugar mills worked during the current sugar season 2006-07 is enclosed (*See* below). Department of Food and Public Distribution does not maintain data on profit/loss of sugar mills.

(b) and (c) Statement-II showing number of sugar mills which did not work during the last three years enclosed (*See* below). The reasons for these sugar mills not working during the last three sugar seasons are inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size, out-dated plant and machinery, technical/managerial incompetence, etc.

(d) and (e) It is the responsibility of the concerned entrepreneurs to take steps to reopen/revive the closed sugar mills. The sick sugar mills belonging to private and public sector are covered under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). Such sugar mills are required to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), whenever their accumulated losses become equal to or more than the net-worth. If the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR provide for any relief/concession from this Ministry, the scheme is considered as per the existing guidelines. As regards the